in the web browser. The next time the user accesses a site that is in the program, it will be automatic. The different web servers cannot typically detect a 'universal cookie' of any sort. The browser gets a cookie and a special message encoded in the URL, or inserted into the HTTP headers, from the software update controller. The web server detects the special message in the URL or the HTTP headers, not in the cookie. The webserver then sets its own cookie for identification at a later date.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, beginning at line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each of the second processing entities 104a-104n include a common gateway interface 108. Similarly, the third processing entity 106, configured as a software update controller, also includes a common gateway interface 110. The common gateway interfaces 108, 110 may be any suitable software modules, hardware circuits or any suitable combination thereof. A common gateway interface, as known in the art of web servers, may include, for example, an external gateway program to interface with information servers such as HTTP servers, in compliance with the standard as may be found at Web address-hoohoo.ncsa.uiuc.edu/cgi/overview.html.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 6 and 15-20 as follows. In particular, please substitute the below claims for the same claims with like number.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of detecting a need to update data includes the step of determining whether a connection request between the first processing